

## Farm and Garden.

Address all inquiries or communications in relation to agriculture to DR. T. H. HARRIS, Newport, Vt.

### Editorial Notings.

**EXPERIMENT STATIONS.**—Several correspondents ask for a list of the state experiment stations now in operation, with the names and post-office addresses of their directors. Can any of our friends connected with the Vermont station furnish us a list for publication?

**THE NATIONAL FLOWER.**—Most of our agricultural contemporaries of the press are discussing the question of a national floral emblem; but nothing like unanimity seems to be reached yet. A woman correspondent of the *Tribune* suggests the white daisy. This is a European plant; but as illustrating the aggressive and rapid spread of the white man on this continent, the citizens of our Indian Territory would probably look upon it as "very appropriate."

**FARMING NEEDS THE WHOLE MAN.**—An exchange is pretty near right, when it says that "the man who thinks he can run successfully some professional business, and at the same time run a farm so much better than others as to enable him to become a public teacher, deceives himself, for if he gives his attention to the farm sufficiently to keep in the front ranks of progress, his professional business must suffer, just the same as a farmer's business would suffer if he should devote a considerable portion of his time to the practice of medicine, law, or mechanics." There is no doubt that he who will make farming fully successful must give his whole time and thoughts to the work. And we even begin to think it is a pretty tough job to run two farms, only two miles apart. "The master's eye" is needed every minute. It is not altogether that "when the cat's away the mice will play," but no hired man, however faithful, can carry out his employer's plans as he can. Every hour some point comes up that must be decided at once, and yet if decided wrongly will cause loss.

**RED TOP FOR HAY.**—Brother Cheever of the *New England Farmer* says: "We are quite sure that farmers generally sow timothy too exclusively when seeding down their meadows to grass. We noticed this particularly in Aroostook county and we have noticed it also in Vermont. In both Maine and Vermont we have found extensive farmers who hardly knew red top grass, and who never have thought of buying the seed to sow. Red top grows nearly as tall as timothy and makes many more stalks, which gives a finer quality of hay and more of it to the acre. Red top endures summer drouth after cutting better than timothy and it is less injured by cattle feeding, the timothy being easily pulled by fall feeding. Red top thickens a sod, while timothy grows thinner from year to year, leaving too much vacant land. Red top is a little later than timothy, and some object to sowing the two together, but if one buys red top in market there will usually be plenty of timothy come from it, for pure red top is rather seldom found in market, nor is there enough difference in the time of ripening to cause much loss by either early or late cutting of one to save the other at its best."

**DRUGS AS A DIET.**—It is less than half a century since man began to find out that alcohol is a poison. Later it began to be believed that tobacco is hurtful to the human system. Still more recently, the injurious action of milder nervines, like coffee and tea, have begun to be suspected; and the discovery of chloral and cocaine has added to the list of substances that men and women "put into their mouths to steal away their brains." Every one of these things was at first commended as beneficial, simply because the first stage of poisoning produced by them is pleasing to the senses. But even Scripture notes the secondary effects, and likens them to the adder's sting. One of the greatest evils of overwork is the increased desire, arising from bodily or mental fatigue, for these deceptive drugs. Once used, they are rarely abandoned, and without fail they more or less victimize all who use them. Many consistent temperance women, who vehemently urge men to shun alcohol, are equally enthralled by tea or coffee, and would find it as hard to leave it off. Yet a large share of domestic strife and discontent is due to the reaction from these favorite "beverages." As an intelligent writer says: "Such are the demands or seeming demands on many men and women that they feel compelled to work all the time that they are not eating or sleeping. In order to do this they drink strong coffee or strong tea, or beer or bitters or brandy, or use tobacco or opium or quinine or cocoa, or something that will keep up muscular and nervous tension. In all these there is not one particle of nutrition; they are poisons slow and sure; they are spurs and goads, or destructive tranquilizers; they drive the blood to the brain; they quicken the beating of the heart; they tighten nervous tensions or relax them.

For the moment they may give relief, seeming strength, concentration of mental or physical energy. By and by, under continued applications of these various stimuli, the brain breaks down, the heart becomes diseased, the nervous system is prostrated, the digestive organs mutiny, and general debility paves the way for easy victory for any disease that may come in the way."

**SUCCULENT FOOD.**—The *Maine Farmer* observes that: "Whether succulent food has more to do with keeping the digestive organs of domestic animals in a healthy working condition than the balancing of the food nutrients to meet the demands of the system, is a question that has not yet been solved. The definite solution of this problem may knock some of the old theories out of existence. There are those who seem to believe that succulence is the one thing of all needed. This may be so, but is it?" Here is a sensible query, but it carries its own answer. No sensible practical farmer believes that there is any "one thing of all," needed in the diet of our domestic animals. It would be very hard to say which one of a half-dozen things connected with feeding is more important than the rest, because truly all of them are essential. It seems to us that the exaggerations of enthusiasts, with more zeal than knowledge, have been and are getting too much notice. Because men of unbalanced minds get excited over ensilage, is no reason why sober-minded people should discard it, or undervalue it. One would naturally think, knowing as we all do, and as editors have long been preaching, that corn is the king crop of America, and the stover worth for feeding two-thirds or three-quarters as much as good hay, that we should all be extremely thankful for a good and cheap way of preserving it for winter feeding. We can be abundantly thankful for this, without adopting extreme notions about it. Take it on the oldest and soundest estimates of its feeding value, and we have abundant grounds for utilizing it to the best advantage. If experience shows, as it seems to show, that the silo is at least one among the good ways, why sneer at the silo because enthusiasts are enthusiastic about it? No man in the West has done more than Professor Sanborn to call the attention of western farmers to the enormous waste of corn fodder in that section. Yet Sanborn has always looked coldly upon the silo, for no other reason, that we can see, except that a good many think too much of it. But in this matter, where saving the feed is the first great essential, it seems to us that one Gould is worth many Sanborns. The old fogeyism of the vast majority of farmers seems to be justified by Sanborn's writings, while the enthusiasm of Gould breaks up their torpidity, and sets them to saving the fodder that has been going to waste, and to raising still more of it. The silo is certainly a better place to winter this feed than the bleak hillside, or prairie fields.

### The Value of Muck.

Vice-president Oliver of the Dairy-men's Association believes in muck. He says "it is worth one dollar a load, as an absorbent in the hog-house." Muck varies a great deal; some is very rich in plant-food, and some has but little in it that will promote the growth of a crop. On light sandy land vegetable matter of any kind serves a valuable purpose in holding the soil together, and keeping it warm and moist, even when it contains very little plant-food. To say, however, as our friend Oliver does, that muck is worth a dollar a load, simply as an absorbent, amounts to a very high appreciation of the value of the liquids so absorbed. We are not prepared to contradict him, for we believe strongly that the liquid excrement of all our stock, including our swine, is worth quite as much as their dung. But in order to realize the full value of muck as an absorbent, it must be pretty dry. To have it so, we believe there is no better plan than to house it six months, or more, under a shed. The moisture in it partly evaporates, and partly is soaked into the ground under it, and in this state it is not only much more effective as an absorbent, but also very much lighter to handle. This seasoning is worth much more than the cost of it.

### The Cheap Farms of New England.

The movement to repopulate the abandoned farms of Vermont has attracted widespread attention, and the work of Commissioner Valentine has been made the subject of much discussion in the principal newspapers of the country, east and west. The general impression seems to be that now is an excellent time for beginning such a work, and that it only needs to be properly pushed to become a great success. New England is not the hard and rocky region she is supposed to be. Her valleys and uplands are as good agricultural land as any in the world; while her higher hills, where unfit for the plow, are no more extensive than is desirable for pasturage, woodland, and shelter against the fierce winds which scourge all level regions. All that is necessary is to make the real facts widely known, and keep them before

the people. We assert that our New England agriculture is as profitable to-day as farming anywhere on this continent. The statistics of the country prove this beyond the possibility of cavil. Let all our six states unite in this grand work of making our agricultural resources known to the world. Referring to this subject, the *Maine Farmer* says: "A further fact is, that these cheap lands are by no means confined to the state of Vermont. They may be found, and in plenty, in every one of the New England States. This is true of our own state to as large an extent, without doubt, were the facts dug out and made public, as in our sister state of Vermont. This being so, it should be known. Very few public men are aware of the low selling value of farm lands in general in our state, and particularly of those lands where the general appreciation places them as the less desirable. Then let the facts be known. If the effort of Vermont in inviting immigration to that state results in nothing more than a disclosure of the real facts in regard to the existing value of farm lands, it will be the first step toward a relief of taxation on fictitious values, which, if followed to the court of justice, would be a means toward bringing them back again to a higher value."

### Two Valuable Reports.

**MAINE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.**—The Thirty-second Annual Report of the Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture is at hand, through the kindness of Secretary Gilbert. With it is bound up the Annual Report of the State Agricultural Experiment Station (one hundred fifty-nine pages), of the Cattle Commission (seven pages), and of the State Pomological Society (one hundred fifty pages), the secretary's report being two hundred thirty pages—or five hundred forty-six pages in all, making a most substantial and instructive volume. When we realize how much is being done in New England by all these means, and by our agricultural press, never so good as to-day, it is not sadly strange that New England farming does not offer sufficient inducements to retain its natural proportion of our people, with their due increase? Surely there is no wilder folly than the folly which makes so many of our people emigrants from so good a country. But we believe that the end of this exodus draws near. Figures which show the comparative status of farming in all the states confirm the fact that in none of them does farming pay better, if as well, as it pays to-day in New England.

**MINNESOTA HORTICULTURAL REPORT.**—This Sixteenth Report, of four hundred seventy-seven pages, is adorned with the frontispiece portrait of Colonel D. A. Robinson, the first president of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, the man who first pointed out the similarity of our northwestern prairies to the Russian steppes, and the probability that the fruits of Russia would be well suited to them. To his efforts were due the government importation of Russian apple-trees in 1869, and the awakening of the public mind of the possibility, which has now become a reality, of extending our orchard region in America far to the north of the limit of climatic endurance of the tree fruits of Western Europe. Vermont has shared this advantage, and benefited much by the work of Minnesota horticulturists in their search for "iron-clad" fruits.

### Notes by the Way.

OUR best animals are highly artificial productions, with a strong tendency to atavism, or striking back to progenitors. While it is true that like begets like, the exceptions are numerous.

THE Swiss government distributes \$30,000 every year in prizes for bulls. The prize bulls are not allowed to be taken out of the country. The chief source of farm profit in that country is from butter and cheese.

THE farmers of the West are in no better condition than the farmers of the East. They are equally pinched by the same hard times and low prices. It is useless to try to run away from them. The evil is all-pervading.

IF it is the mutton breeds you fancy, get the best to be had. If you want to grow wool, select a sheep the most nearly a typical wool-bearer in quality and quantity that you can possibly find. Their price is a secondary consideration.

THIS season the London market for butter has been about four to six cents per pound above Boston and New York. The increased expense in marketing there over the expense of marketing in New York would be about two cents per pound.

A DEALER who handles a great deal of fine butter remarked: "I have just had to stop taking the butter of a man who really makes a very palatable article but who will persist in churning but once a week. When his butter comes in it seems all right, but after a day or two it becomes rancid. He will not believe me, and will not change his plan of manufacture—and we had to separate."

A WISCONSIN farmer in the *Farm, Stock and Home*, writes: "Cattle are low in price—very low—and many of my neighbors are reducing stock as rapidly as possible; in fact, I learn that there is a general reduction going on all over the country, but I am doing the exact contrary. 'When everybody goes out I always go in,' has been my life-long motto, and I am able to pay my debts, too."

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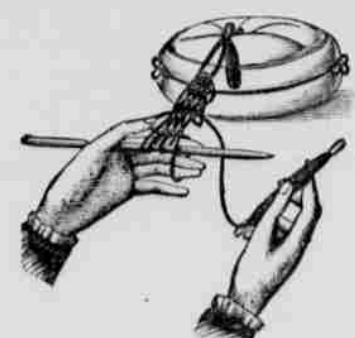
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## Boarding Around--Second Year.

NUMBER ONE.

The "ancient and honorable" Board of Agriculture held its first meeting for the current year October 23 and 24 at Grand Isle. In spite of cold rain, mud and other depressing circumstances, the meeting was well attended, the house being well filled all through the five sessions and crowded both evenings. As many as three hundred fifty people were present and it may be four hundred. M. O. Kinney presided. Hon. J. A. Chamberlain welcomed the board in a brief but cordial address. Mr. Davis responded eloquently and earnestly for a few moments. Then came the regular addresses and discussions of the programme. Having taken no notes, I will not attempt a detailed report, meeting rather to give the spirit of the meeting than the letter. Reporters for the *St. Albans Messenger* and the *Burlington Free Press* were present and will give full details. R. C. Smith, H. W. Vail and Professor Cooke spoke on "Dairy Topics," William Chapin on "The Grass and Hay Crop," O. M. Winslow on "Horse Breeding," and M. W. Davis on "General Farming." Outside the board, we had the help of C. W. Minott of the experiment farm on "Fruits and Vegetables," and Mr. Perry, state geologist, on "Marbles of Vermont," illustrated by stereopticon. The Grand Isle county band gave us good music and the ladies furnished warm meals in the vestry below. The meeting-house was kept comfortable, being well-warmed and ventilated. All these things and the cheerful hospitality of the people were in pleasant contrast with the bad state of the weather, roads and other discouragements. Every moment of available time was used in asking questions and giving replies.

The fruit fair held in the town house opposite the church was not quite as good as the one held two years ago—this being a very poor year for apples; but the horse show, which was not advertised, was a grand success, some fifty fine horses and colts being shown; evidently horse flesh is booming. The beautiful Lambert horse "General Logan" owned by Juan Robinson and a Blackhawk colt of Mr. Vantines were nearly perfect specimens. The trotting horse "Grand Isle" was not shown, but his owner, Mr. Phelps, told us in a ten-minute speech how he was trained, exercised, shod, and made to go in two-twenty-six with a fair prospect of bringing the record to two-fifteen. While fruit-growing and horse-raising are large industries in this county the dairy interest is growing fast. Since our meeting here two years ago a creamery has been established at Grand Isle taking the milk of four hundred cows. It is a co-operative institution, and for a wonder seems to give full satisfaction to the stockholders and patrons. They use the Danish-Weston separator for creaming, run by steam power. Their butter has sold for eighteen cents per pound all summer and is now selling for twenty-five cents. It all goes to Manchester, N. H. The company hires, Mr. J. N. Mackey of East Georgia for about \$400 a year and he furnishes what other help is needed. Mr. Mackey is evidently an expert butter maker, and that with a shrewd manager and seller are the main elements of success in this business. With rich soil and sweet pastures this county is well situated for butter making, and the increasing summer travel to the islands helps them to a good home market for many of their productions. There are but few abandoned farms or cheap lands in this section. We passed one farm that had just been sold for \$50 per acre, with only fair farm buildings on it; but these lands will bear fruits that will grow or produce but little in the most of Vermont. It was a great pleasure to visit the farm on the west shore occupied by the venerable Benja. Maconiber and his sons S. M. and Joseph; they are among the best farmers and fruit-growers in the state. A walk through Joseph's flower and fruit garden is a rare treat—many sweet and fragrant blossoms even in October in open air, all the best varieties of grapes ripened to perfection, pears and peaches, strawberries from which we picked nice ripe clusters of the second crop October 4. These were a few of the leading attractions of the place to which this genial bachelor has evidently given his heart and mind.

The Vermont experiment station has been doing some good work for dairymen. Last year it tested a number of creameries and found from 100 pounds of fat only ninety pounds went into butter on the average; this varied from eighty-four to ninety-five pounds in different samples. The amount of marketable butter obtained averaged 108 pounds, a variation of from 105 to 115 pounds to each 100 pounds of fat. Here an average of eighteen pounds of water and salt is shown in each 100 pounds of butter, but these substances vary from fourteen to twenty-two pounds. The trials mean that ten per cent of butter fat was lost in making the butter.

PERHAPS no class of people are more inclined to grumble than the farmers, and in some respects they have good reason for their grumbling; for few human interests are more made the subject of speculation than the crop prospect. It is always too hot or too cold, too dry or too wet, and whatever may be the condition, it is made the basis of prognostication for good or evil. And yet, on the average, farming is quite as safe as any other business going.

THE exports of cheese from the Provinces have grown from 5,000 pounds to from 60,000,000 to 70,000,000 pounds yearly. The price of cheese at Ingersoll and Listowel Canadian primary markets last week was nine to nine and one-fourth cents per pound; at Utica and Little Falls, N. Y., the price was eight and one-fourth to eight and one-half cents per pound.

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